THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 14, NO. 5 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1994

DNR REPORTS . . .

by Glenn Therres

We all know that occasionally individual birds stray beyond their normal range and show up in places where they don't naturally occur. When this happens, such as when the Whiskered Tern came to Delaware, birders get excited and many go to see the "out-of-place" bird. Birds are not the only animals to stray from their normal ranges. One such animal that showed up in Maryland this summer was a Florida manatee.

Manatees are a marine mammal native to Florida and coastal Georgia. Their habitat is rivers and coastal waters with mild to sub-tropical temperatures. Individuals have roamed north into North Carolina. The last few years one or two even got into the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, in Virginia.

In Maryland, it all started the end of July when we received a report through our Marine Mammal Stranding Network hotline that a manatee was sighted in the lower Susquehanna River. That first report was hard to believe, to say the least. Then on August 8 a second report came in from the Sassafras River. Could it be possible? Over Labor Day weekend, a manatee was reported frequently from a marina in Rock Hall, Kent County. This time Natural Resources Police saw it. For the next two weeks the manatee moved back and forth between marinas at Rock Hall and Kent Narrows, Queen Anne's County.

Once we knew it was definitely a manatee, the question became what should we do? By now DNR and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service were discussing the situation almost daily. Since there are no manatee biologists in Maryland we sought the advice of the experts in Florida. Initially, the decision was to let mother nature run its course and hopefully the manatee would move south. However, the animal was showing no signs of continuing south and the water temperatures in the Bay were cooling. Manatees start becoming cold stressed in water temperatures below 65ºF. Bay temperatures were now fluctuating between 68º and 70ºF.

Since this is an endangered species, with a population of around 1,850 animals, the decision was made to try and capture and move it back to Florida. Manatee experts from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Sea World in Florida flew to Maryland to oversee the rescue attempt. The marine mammal stranding experts from the National Aquarium in Baltimore joined the team, along with numerous biologists from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's offices in Maryland and DNR personnel. This was one super cooperative effort!

Starting September 21 the rescue effort was underway. Local residents reported the

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In Memory of Roberta Fletcher

by Debby Bennett

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Roberta Fletcher. Roberta B. Fletcher, wife of the late Jerry Fletcher of Denton, died August 26, 1994, at their home.

Roberta and Jerry were charter members of MOS and its local chapter, the Caroline County Bird Club, the first on the Eastern Shore. Roberta was not only an excellent birder, but also shared her knowledge with so many others. Many of her prize pupils are top-notch birders now due to her instruction.

Roberta touched the lives of many. She is survived by her son, Robert E. Fletcher and family, also of Denton. Memorial donations may be made to the Caroline County Bird Club in care of Wilbur Rittenhouse, P.O. Box 147, Hillsboro, MD 21641, or to the Denton Church of the Brethren, 7th and Randolph Streets, Denton, MD 21629.

Report of the Long-Range Planning Committee

by Joanne Solem

In early 1992 then MOS President John Malcolm asked this committee to examine what the membership believed to be the Society's needs and direction for the next 50 years. In an attempt to allow input from all those who wished to express their views, we requested that each chapter provide comments, and many of them did. On at least two occasions members of the state board offered suggestions. Finally, a questionnaire was prepared which appeared in the September-October 1993 issue of the **MD Yellowthroat** in order to allow any members who so desired to give us their ideas. A total of 167 replies were received.

The results were tabulated and a summary was presented to the state board on September 24, 1994. For future reference, four supplementary pages of members' comments were appended to the President's and Recording Secretary's copies of the report. A condensed version was provided to members of the board with answers to the six questions as follows:

1. MOS activities and publications should focus mostly, but not entirely, on bird-related top-

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chapter chatter

by Jane Hill

Special attention paid to teen birders — To encourage birding in the up-and-coming generation, the Harford Chapter has specially invited environmental science students in county high schools to go on a Chapter field trip to Bombay Hook on November 5. Leader Bill McIntosh will be assisted by other chapter members, each of whom will help three to five students find and identify birds.

Clearinghouse for travel information — In addition, Harford is reviving a travel information clearinghouse, or network, that for several years collected and distributed information on birding sites. Coordinators Les Eastman, Jean Wheeler, and Winifred McDowell are asking Chapter members to donate handouts they acquire during birding trips, such as brochures on places they birded, motels, trail guides, checklists, directions, and tour descriptions. These will be made available to others in the Chapter. In addition, if Chapter members let Les know of their travel plans well in advance, he will search the Internet archives of birding trip reports and discussions, for information on

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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Will Tress, 203 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212, (800).823-0050 (in MD).

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the January/February 1995 issue are:

January-March Calendar Activities:
November 18, 1994

All Other Submissions:
November 23, 1994

Maryland Christmas Counts and Compilers, 1994-95

Saturday, December 17

Allegany County—John Willetts (Frostburg), 301-689-3202.

Catoctin — Mike Welch (Frederick), 301-874-5828.

Denton — Steve Westre (Denton), 410-479-0338.

Elkton — Joel Citron (Wilmington, DE), 302-475-8773.

Oakland — Connie Skipper (Oakland), 301-387-5227.

Triadelphia Reservoir — Norm Saunders (Colesville), 301-989-9035 (H), or 202-606-5723 (O).

Washington, DC — John Bjerke, compiler. To sign up, call Beth Cranmer at the Audubon Naturalist Society (Chevy Chase), 301-652-5964, ext. 3006.

Sunday, December 18

Jug Bay — Sam Droege, 410-798-6759

Lower Kent County — Paul Toulson (Chestertown), 410-778-4123.

Port Tobacco — George Wilmot (Bryans Road), 301-375-8552.

St. Michaels — Carolyn Mills (St. Michaels), 410-745-5209.

Salisbury — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.

Seneca — Craig Tufts, 703-679-4438 (O), or 703-689-2590 (H).

Monday, December 26

Bowie — Fred Fallon (Bowie), 301-249-1518.

Point Lookout — Anne Bishop, 301-872-5355.

Wednesday, December 28

Blackwater — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.

Chincoteague, VA — Teta Kain (Gloucester, VA), 804-693-5246.

Rock Run — Dennis Kirkwood (White Hall), 410-692-5905.

Thursday, December 29

Ocean City — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.

Friday, December 30

Crisfield — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.

Saturday, December 31

Baltimore Harbor — Peter Webb (Baltimore), 410-486-1217.

Washington County — David Weesner (Boonsboro), 301-432-7718.

Sunday, January 1

Annapolis/Gibson Island—Sue Ricciardi (Arnold), 410-647-9513, or Hal Wierenga (Arnold), 410-647-7439.

Monday, January 2

Sugarloaf — Gary Nelson (Bethesda), 301-897-8916, or Keith Van Ness (Walkersville), 301-845-4450.

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DNR Reports . . .

manatee was in Queenstown Creek, so that's where the operation began. The first step was to get a feel for how the animal was behaving and to learn more about Queenstown Creek. Boats with biologists and marine mammal stranding workers were deployed. No attempts to capture the animal were made the first day. The following day the manatee disappeared.

It returned to Queenstown Creek on September 26. The plan was to get a net into the water and gently drive the animal into it. All was working well. The manatee swam toward the net and got within 10 feet, but turned around before the two anchor boats could pull the net around it.

For the next few days we played cat-and-mouse with the manatee. This animal was definitely in its element in the waters of Queenstown Creek. There was plenty of sea grasses for it to feed on and deep enough water to elude our capture attempts. On the evening of September 28 we came real close to catching it. An hour before sunset we were gently driving the manatee toward our 250-foot net. It swam into the opening and this time we were able to close it off. As we started closing the net in on the animal, darkness set in. With the help of the Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department some light was provided, but not enough to see the animal. As the net was dragged on the bottom over rocks, snags and who knows what, the manatee escaped under the bottom edge without our knowing it. Talk about disappointment!

That was last night. As I write this column (to meet my deadline), the disappointment lingers. A lot of heart and soul by a tremendous team of concerned manatee rescuers has gone into this effort so far. Unfortunately, I cannot report the final outcome of this adventure yet, as my deadline has arrived. Stay tuned for the rest of the story.

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Chapter Chatter

outs about the Chapter and old newsletters (a way to use them up!) that include membership forms.

New bird-finding guide in planning stage — The Baltimore Chapter is beginning work on a guide to birding sites in Baltimore County and City. To offer suggestions, information, or help, call Bob Rineer, (410) 391-8499.

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Chapter Chatter

their destinations. If any other MOS members would like to donate material for these archives, send the material along to Les Eastman at 4034 Wilkinson Road, Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

"From Campaign Trail to Nature Trail" — Montgomery Chapter member Lola Oberman will speak about her transition from speechwriter for prominent Democrats such as Lloyd Bentsen to nature writer and book author, at a Woman's National Democratic Club luncheon Dec. 5, in Washington, DC.

New column in a new weekly — Lola also is authoring a new column, titled "Nature's Walk", in a new weekly, the Montgomery Gazette. (It's not the Thursday throwaway well known to many Montgomery Countians, but is available at newsstands or by subscription.)

Bluebird Society award winner has record year despite fierce winter — Last winter's ferocious ice storms might have been expected to kill many eastern bluebirds, which are winter residents in this region, and thus to reduce the number of fledglings this year. But not so for the 440 nest sites monitored by Howard Chapter member Mark Wallace, a 1993 winner of a North American Bluebird Society award for individual achievement in bluebird conservation. This year saw a record-breaking 663 birds fledge from 1,027 eggs, compared with 541 from 1,003 eggs in 1992, his previous record year. Mark attributes the banner year to several factors: House wrens, which compete with bluebirds for nest sites, were late in migrating back to this area due to rainy March weather; house sparrows, which often destroy bluebird eggs and young, were more affected by the severe winter weather than were the bluebirds; insects, particularly grasshoppers, were unusually plentiful this spring and summer; and blowfly larvae, which parasitize young bluebirds, were down in number.

Letting our presence be known — As the various MOS chapters begin preparing their displays for the 50th-anniversary conference to be held next June, we note that the Howard Chapter has for years had an exhibit at events such as the county agricultural fair and a garden fair. For the past year, this display has centered on two tri-folds prepared by Martha Chestem, one featuring information about chapter programs and publications, the other an exhibit of postcards showing 50 birds that breed in the county, with a key at the bottom. At this year's Howard County fair, the tri-folds were supplemented by mounted bird specimens and an assemblage of fishing line and hooks collected from local reservoirs and warning of the danger they pose—all put together by Mike McClure and Joanne Solem. Offered to the public at such events are hand-

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Long Range Planning Report

bership regarding the tardy publication of ***Maryland Birdlife***. This situation is seen as unprofessional and reinforces a poor image of the organization. It leads to a publication which goes unread by many members because it is perceived as out of date when it is received. Grappling with this problem should be one of the highest continuing priorities of the Society.

4. **Protect birds and habitat.** The vast majority of members recognize that MOS has an important role to play in protecting bird populations and preserving habitats. In addition to maintaining our sanctuary system, many members encourage MOS to explore avenues to multiply or leverage limited financial resources through cooperative agreements and creative arrangements with other land-acquiring organizations. In this way the maximum amount of land could be protected without our necessarily having to purchase or maintain it ourselves.
5. **Examine who we are and what we wish to accomplish.** The next half-century may well require that MOS come to grips with its identity: whether it wants to become a large, probably more environmentally-oriented organization with permanent headquarters and a paid staff, or whether it wishes to remain essentially a bird-oriented, mostly volunteer, group. At this time the vote is overwhelmingly in favor of the latter choice. As one individual put it, "We must concentrate on what we do best, what brought us together—birds. No other group in Maryland has the collective interest and authority in birds that MOS has."

Although the concerns listed above should provide some major direction in the coming decades, no individual or committee can predict what circumstances the Society will face in the next half century. It is imperative that MOS maintain a flexible outlook so that, whether the year is 1995 or 2045, our commitment to and enjoyment of Maryland's birdlife will remain undiminished.

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Long Range Planning Report

ics, according to two-thirds of those responding.

2. When speaking out on bird-related or environmental topics, more than four-fifths thought MOS should speak out as an organization. Many people thought the Society should also encourage its members to speak out as individuals.
3. The subject of sanctuaries and land ownership contained three parts. First, a majority favored emphasizing sanctuary maintenance over land purchase. Second, almost half of the respondents were willing to acquire land, even if habitat management would be required. Third, if MOS acquires land, nearly half of those answering want to concentrate on habitats MOS does not already own.
4. Three-fifths of those responding felt that MOS should charge fees to cover costs only.
5. The interpretation of priorities for use of funds received as gifts or bequests was more complex, but the two choices that were the clear winners were, first, upkeep of existing sanctuaries, and, second, purchase of land for sanctuaries. The least popular choices were purchase of a headquarters, the hiring of a paid staff, and contribution to other conservation organizations.

The final question invited suggestions and comments for direction as MOS looks toward its second half-century. These comments were summarized under the five major statements below. The order in which they are arranged is not significant.

1. **Publicize MOS.** Despite chapters in many counties and 1,500-2,000 members, MOS all too often seems invisible. Other organizations with much less expertise are quoted or consulted by the media. What is even more puzzling is that members who do appear in features do not always identify their affiliation with MOS. Suggestions for increased visibility include additional publications by the state organization or its chapters. Possible topics are good birding locations, plantings for wildlife, bird feeding information, and wildlife management. As one person summarized it, "We should build on the good feeling we have and our unique position in Maryland."
2. **Reach out to youth and involve them.** Young people are the future of this organization. Active participation at an early age may stimulate a lifelong fascination for birds and natural history. Only by awakening an interest in the next generation can we hope to preserve and protect the limited and dwindling birdlife and habitat. Few people pretend to know <u>how</u> to involve young people, but there is a widespread awareness that this should be a priority for the coming decades.
3. **Publications should be timely.** A strong undercurrent of frustration pervades the mem-

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Attacking Alaska

by Les Eastman

A review of **A Bird Finding Guide to Alaska**, by Nick Lethaby
Copyright February 1994 Nick Lethaby
152 pages including 14 maps.

First of all, let me say that I cannot attest to the accuracy of this guide because I have never been to Alaska. However, I am currently in the planning stages for a trip to Alaska next summer, so I read the guide from the perspective of someone who is looking for information that will enable them to get the most from their vacation. Since I will be taking the trip with several non-birders, I would like to know in advance where I can combine birding with general sightseeing and wildlife viewing.

This guide is primarily intended for people visiting Alaska for the express purpose of finding bird species that they cannot commonly find in other parts of the United States. The Alaska panhandle is not covered at all in this guide because any birds found there can easily be found in the lower 48 states and it would not be worth a trip to Alaska just to find these birds. Regular tourists visiting Alaska who want to know which birds to expect along the way will find that this guide will not meet all of their needs. However, many of the sites described in the site accounts are in the Kenai Peninsula - Anchorage - Denali - Fairbanks corridor frequented by many tourists and tour companies. For these sites, this guide will be a valuable asset towards finding the specialty birds in these areas.

The guide is divided into 3 main sections—Planning Your Visit, Site Accounts, and an Annotated Species List. Other sections give information on a few other bird guides to Alaska and seven of the better known birding tours. In the back, there is an index listing all the bird species mentioned in the guide for easy reference to the best place to find them.

"Planning Your Visit" covers issues like the best time of year to visit to see the most birds (late May and early June—the summer tourist season—doesn't seem to be one of the better times), as well as how to make the best use of your time and money. Some suggestions are offered on how to see the most birds per dollar.

The "Site Accounts" cover 23 sites: Anchorage; Denali National Park; Denali Highway; Steese Highway; Delta Junction; Glenn Highway; Seward; Kenai NWR; Homer; Homer-Kodiak, Seward-Kodiak and Homer-Dutch Harbor Ferry; Cordova; Kodiak; Cold Bay/Izembek NWR; Yukon Delta NWR; Nome; Kotzebue and Kelly Bar; Wales; Gambell; Barrow; Prudhoe Bay and the Dalton Highway; the Pribilof Islands; Adak and Attu and the outer Aleutians.

Each site account first gives a description of the area, including the terrain, habitat and the best time of year to visit. Next, there is a report of the bird species to be found at this site and where to find them. These reports are usually linked to the roadside mile markers where applicable. Many of the site accounts include detailed maps that further clarify where the best birding sites are located. Finally, logistical information, such as how to get there and where to stay, is covered, including suggested car rental agencies, boat tours and hotel/motel accommodations complete with addresses and phone numbers.

The "Annotated Species List" lists 140 of the bird species that the author considers to be the most interesting for visiting birders. In addition to the Alaska specialties, bird species that are easy to see in Alaska but difficult in particular areas of the lower 48 states are included. "These include loons, grebes, and scoters that are difficult in the gulf coast and some interior states, western species (e.g. Townsend's Warbler), eastern species (e.g. Gray-cheeked Thrush), and boreal/montane species (e.g. Three-toed Woodpecker)." The accounts tell generally where the species can be seen in Alaska and, in the narrative, give some idea of the degree of difficulty in finding them. These species accounts are cross referenced to the site accounts and tell the best time of year to see the birds at these locations.

In conclusion, I would recommend this guide to any bird watcher going to Alaska unless they are only going to the panhandle region. While it does not cover all the bird species to be found in Alaska (the author expressly states that is not the purpose of the guide), it should be a part of the Alaska traveler's library of guides and references and is definitely required reading for any lister making the trip.

The guide can be ordered from the author for $14.95 + $3.00 shipping by sending a check to: Nick Lethaby, 79 Mirabelli Circle, San Jose CA 95134.

Ed. Note: I asked Les to provide me with a few short biographical comments to go with his review. Here is what he came up with:

Les Eastman has been a member of the Harford Chapter of MOS since 1985 and is a charter member of the new Cecil County Chapter. He is the calendar editor for the **MD Yellowthroat**, a past vice-president of the Harford Chapter, and the editor of the Harford Chapter newsletter.

He has the good fortune to work at a place (Aberdeen Proving Grounds) that is also an excellent birding area. The post is on a peninsula that juts out into the Chesapeake Bay and Les is the unofficial leader of his own little birding group there on the post that frequently goes out birding at lunchtime. He has always liked outdoor activities, growing up hunting and fishing in North Carolina, but somewhere about the time he graduated from high school, Les became more interested in watching the squirrels run through the trees than in shooting at them, so he moved on to other activities. He was into outdoor photography for quite a while but didn't begin birding until about ten years ago, after taking a birdwatching course at the local community college. That course ignited a spark that is still burning.

Although he has birded in California, Arizona and Florida, most of his birding is done here in the Maryland-Delaware area, with side trips to Chincoteague, VA and Cape May, NJ about once a year. He lives right next to Susquehanna State Park and not too far from Conowingo Dam, two excellent birding areas. His current birding goals are to catch up with Norm Saunders' yard and state lists.

SPECIAL OFFER: For anyone who identifies the **MD Yellowthroat** as the source of information that led them to order **A Bird Finding Guide to Alaska**, I will allow a $1 discount on your order and I will donate $1 to the Maryland Ornithological Society. This offer is good for orders received over the 90-day period covering November 1, 1994 through January 31, 1995. To take advantage of this offer, write to me telling me where you read about my book and to which organization (including address) I should send the $1 donation. Include a check for $13.95 + $3.00 shipping made out to "Nick Lethaby" and send it to: Nick Lethaby, 79 Mirabelli Circle, San Jose, CA 95134.

--Nick Lethaby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOS Has A New Phone Number!

As noted in the last issue, MOS now has a telephone number: 1-800-823-0050. This is a toll-free call from anywhere in Maryland. Outside of Maryland and within the Baltimore calling area the number is (410) 244-0032. Will Tress, the MOS Executive Secretary, will be checking the phone mailbox regularly and responding to calls or forwarding them as needed. All members should feel free to contact him at this number. Please advertise the number as widely as possible throughout the state so that potential new members can get in touch with MOS quickly and efficiently.

PECO Activities

The Conowingo Visitors' Information Center of the Philadelphia Electric Company is sponsoring a trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on Friday, November 11. Reservations are required and a fee of $15 is charged. In addition, the Visitors' Center is planning an Owl Prowl on the evening of Thursday, November 17, and Eagle Watches on Saturday, November 19 and Saturday, December 3. For further information call the Center (Harford County) at (410) 457-5011.

Tri-State Open House

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research is holding an open house at their Wildlife Center on Sunday, November 6, from 1-5 p.m. They are located at 110 Possum Hollow Road, Newark, DE 19711. For further information or for directions, call Patricia Robertson (Newark, DE) at (302) 737-9543.

Raptor ID Course in Annapolis

The National Wildlife Federation is bringing Bill Clark's raptor field identification course to the Annapolis area for the first time. Dates are not yet final and the course fee will be in the neighborhood of $75 per person for 6 hours of classroom work and a 1-day field trip to Blackwater NWR. Since participation is limited to 20 students, call today to reserve your place. Contact Greg Worden (Annapolis) at (410) 268-0906.

The Envirothon Needs Your Help!

Beginning in 1979 in Pennsylvania, this high school competition involving natural history/environmental topics has spread to over 30 states. Each high school team consists of 5 students who attend training sessions all year to prepare themselves for the county competition in March/April. Sometime in May the winning team from each county competes for the State championship. Maryland had 16 counties represented in last year's State competition. The State winners then compete for the National title. The program relies heavily on volunteers and donations. If you are interested in coaching, especially with the Wildlife Section, which includes Ornithology, please contact your local Soil Conservation Office as soon as possible.

MARYLAND MID-WINTER BIRD COUNTS, 1995

Sunday, January 15

Calvert County — Jim Stasz (North Beach), 410-257-9540 (H), or 301-952-3653 (O).

Saturday, January 21

Carroll County — Bob Ringler (Eldersburg), 410-549-6031 (H), or 410-225-6180 (O).

Cecil County — Gary Griffith (Elkton), 410-392-4491.

Prince George's County— Paul Jung (Bowie), 301-262-7531.

Sunday, January 22

Baltimore County — Bob Ringler (Eldersburg), 410-549-6031 (H), or 410-225-6180 (O).

Frederick County — Dave Smith (Eldersburg), 410-549-7082.

Saturday, January 28

Allegany County — Teresa Simons (Cumberland), 301-729-4161 (H), or 301-777-5646 (O).

Harford County — Bill Pfingsten (Bel Air), 410-838-5732.

Montgomery County — Tony Heatwole (Gaithersburg), 301-924-4839.

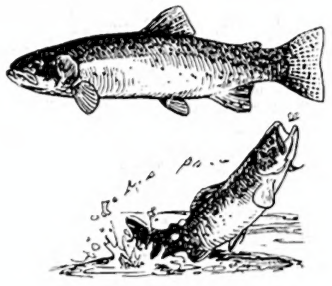
Saturday, February 4

Garrett County — Fran Pope (Mountain Lake Park), 301-334-4908.

Howard County — Jo Solem (Laurel), 301-725-5037.

Kent County — Jim & Trish Gruber (Chestertown), 410-778-6851.

The mid-winter count series is designed to get a true measure of wintering bird populations in Maryland, since many observers feel that Christmas Counts in this area are often distorted by lingering fall migrants. Similar to May Count, the mid-winter counts are done by county and are carried out on a single day sometime during the period January 10 through February 10. Counties in the Eastern part of Maryland should generally schedule their counts toward the beginning of this period, while counties in Western Maryland can wait until the latter part of the period. If there is no count scheduled for your locality, consider organizing one. Contact Norm Saunders at 301-989-9035 (Colesville) for thoughts on setting up a count in your county, and for further information on what should be recorded and where the data collected should be submitted.



LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I would like to point out to you a review of **Birds in Literature** that appeared in the August 11 number of the ***New York Review of Books***. It was written by the poet W. S. Merwin and may be of interest to David Spector, your reviewer. My last book, **The Role of Place in Literature**, drew reviews from two disciplines, human geography as well as literary criticism. Writing that elicits responses from two opposite poles of thought is risky but exciting. I look forward to Spector's review.

Sandwich, NH, tucked between the start of the White Mountains and the Lake District, is where we have been spending the last 12 summers. The loon is the most beloved bird up here and I help out in the yearly census conducted by the Loon Preservation Committee. I am presently monitoring one chick and two adults on Kusumke Pond (adjacent to Squam). Problem is, it was a second nesting, the chick having been hatched on August 2. I won't be here to see whether it makes it out before the pond freezes over, since we return to Maryland on September 15.

Sincerely yours,
Leonard Lutwack

*[Ed. note: the review of Professor Lutwack's book, **Birds in Literature**, appeared in the September-October 1994 issue of the **MD Yellowthroat**.]*

Dear Editor:

It is with great pleasure that I write with good news and a hearty thank you. With the continuing support of the Maryland conservation community and the generosity of Marylanders, the checkoff has had another outstanding year.

In 1993 the checkoff took a slight dip to $961,000. It has come back strong in 1994 with total donations of $1,036,960. The conservation community supported us by providing newsletter coverage, supporting checkoff-funded programs and testifying in support of last year's sunset repeal legislation. Twenty Maryland conservation organizations published checkoff psa's or articles.

Promotional efforts went very well this year. Along with television and radio coverage the checkoff was featured in 119 newspaper stories or public service announcements. A series of five biweekly postcard mailings to 3,000 Maryland tax preparers publicized checkoff-funded projects and encouraged support. Our colorful oversized postcards were also inserted in ten newspapers reaching 340,000 people. Promotional posters and brochures were distributed to community organizations, Maryland businesses, libraries, schools and tax preparers.

We look forward to sending you our next annual report with descriptions of the many programs made possible through checkoff funding.

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MOS Scholarships for Training in Ecology and Ornithology

by Isa Sieracki

Ecology Scholarships: The Maryland Ornithological Society is now accepting applications from Maryland teachers and youth leaders for five scholarships to summer ecology workshops which the National Audubon Society holds at its camps in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming. Each grant covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ecology, conservation, and natural history.

Ornithology Scholarship: The MOS is also accepting applications from Maryland teachers and youth leaders for one scholarship for a week of study in ornithology at the Audubon summer workshop in Maine.

Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship: Another scholarship has been added this year thanks to the Kent County Chapter of MOS. This scholarship, with preference given to Eastern Shore applicants, is available for any camp of choice.

Requirements: The MOS requires that its scholarship recipients work with young people. This includes teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, students, and others who are or are planning to make nature education a part of their careers. Applicants need not be members of MOS, but must be endorsed by a chapter or a member of MOS. Each candidate must provide a written statement showing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our wild heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment. Additionally, two or more letters from individuals who know of the candidate's interests and activities are requested.

Applications for the 1995 season are due by January 31 to Isa Sieracki, Chairperson of the MOS Scholarship Committee, 792 Everist Drive, Aberdeen, MD 21001, 410-273-6201. We urge all MOS members to see that this information is disseminated as widely as possible to all educators in the state—we need a broader base of applicants to ensure good coverage over all of Maryland's counties!

Get Involved !!!

Take Part In A Christmas Count or a Mid-Winter Count This Year!

(continued from page 6, column 3)

LETTERS

servation feared that the chicks might be orphaned or abandoned as a result of the oil spill. An estimated 1,000 unsoiled penguins were left on the islands. About 2,300 of the captive birds died from stress, cold and oil contamination.

During my tour of duty, which extended from July 17th through August 7th, a total of 2,495 penguins were returned to the wild. Prior to release, each bird was subjected to a rigorous physical examination, which included a blood specimen, weighing, and waterproofing test. We hope to monitor the fate of these birds since each rehabilitated Jackass Penguin was ringed with an individually numbered metal tag prior to release. Jackass Penguins are thought to mate for life and return each breeding season to the burrow they originally made together. Within days of the first release, ringed birds were observed returning to their nests on Dassen and Robben Islands, reuniting with their mates, swimming, and feeding on schools of anchovies and sardines.

Although we lack a complete record of the birds taken into custody, an estimated 6,000 penguins were handled at the known treatment facilities. By comparison, the 1989 Exxon Valdez incident involved the rescue of 1,500 oiled birds.

Should you desire additional information on the penguin rescue operation, please feel free to telephone me either at my office, (301) 258-3141, or residence, (703) 860-9386.

Sincerely,
Guy R. Hodge, Director of Data & Information Services
The Humane Society of the United States

(continued from page 5, column 3)

LETTERS

Thank you for your continued support. If we can answer any questions about the checkoff or the promotion effort, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,
Richard R. Leader, Assistant Director
Chesapeake Bay Trust
60 West Street, Suite 200-A
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 974-2941

Dear Editor:

Readers of the **MD Yellowthroat** might be interested in the unusual birding activities of one of their fellow members of the Maryland Ornithological Society. In July I traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to assist with the rescue and rehabilitation of oiled Jackass Penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*). The species is endemic to southern Africa and is the only member of the 18 species of penguins in the world to occur on the continent. Earlier this year, the Sea Fisheries Research Institute estimated the total population of Jackass Penguins in the world to number only 170,000 adult birds. Recent counts show the species to be extinct at 11 out of 38 sites where they once occurred around the Southern Africa coast. It is estimated that the number of penguins in the wild has declined 90 percent over the past sixty years. Guano scraping, overfishing, egg collection, and interspecific competition with seal herds have been factors in the decline, but oil pollution is currently the primary threat to the birds.

My involvement with the management of an oiled penguin rescue center was necessitated by a major oil spill that impacted two of the Jackass Penguins' primary breeding colonies—the populations of Dassen and Robben Islands, which are north of Cape Town. The spill has been attributed to the Chinese ore carrier Apollo Sea which sank with all hands during a fierce winter storm. As a wildlife rescue worker with 18 years of professional experience in the rehabilitation of oil-contaminated wildlife, I was dispatched to South Africa by Humane Society International (HSI), which is the international arm of The Humane Society of the United States.

By most accounts, the spill had catastrophic consequences for the Jackass Penguin. South African conservation officials and ornithologists speculated that up to two-thirds of the region's penguins died or disappeared in the two weeks after oil first spilled across the penguins' hunting areas. Apparently, an entire generation of juvenile birds was wiped out by the incident. Cape Nature Conservation reported that virtually every chick in two breeding colonies had perished.

During a week-long rescue operation involving military helicopters and personnel 7,000 penguins were rescued from Dassen and Robben Islands. As a precaution, several hundred unsoiled chicks were dug from burrows and taken into captivity. Biologists with Cape Nature Con-

(continued on page 6, column 2)

1994 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST COMPILATION

Each year, the MOS compiles and publishes totals from member's state and local bird lists. Forms for submitting 1994 locality lists are provided in this issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat***. You are invited to submit your totals for any of the following list categories:

STATE/COUNTY CUMULATIVE LISTS: This category is for your "lifetime" species totals identified anywhere in the state of Maryland, DC, or within any of the 23 Maryland counties. You may submit totals for any of these localities. Due to space limitations, please only submit totals which exceed 50% of the "maximum" number for each locality. The form contains the latest maximums and the 50% threshold for each locality.

STATE/COUNTY 1994 ANNUAL LISTS: This category is for total species identified only in 1994 for the same localities as above. These totals may be reported at any threshold.

"YARD" LIST: This category is for cumulative yard list totals, and 1994 totals. You may count any species you have identified while in your "yard" (that is, the property contiguous to the site of your home). "Flyovers" and other birds identified <u>from</u> your yard (even if they were not <u>in</u> your yard) also count. Additional information is requested on your "yard".

"ALL-COUNTY" LIST: This category is for counting the number of species you have identified in each of the 23 Maryland counties. For example, if you have identified a Northern Mockingbird, an American Crow, a Downy Woodpecker and a Red-tailed Hawk in each of the 23 Maryland counties, your list total would be "4".

"ALL-TIME HIGH" ANNUAL LISTS: This category is used to track all-time high annual lists from the current and previous years. Annual prior year totals for the various reporting localities may be submitted. For Maryland, submitted totals should equal or exceed 271 (70% of the "maximum possible" number). For individual counties, totals submitted from previous years should exceed either 50% of the "maximum possible" or exceed one of the top totals previously published for that county. See the March/April 1994 issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat*** for previously published totals.

This year, the "maximum possible" numbers have been taken from the preliminary version of the new **Field List of the Birds of Maryland** (the "yellow book") which is currently in preparation. In some counties, the numbers vary noticeably from those previously published.

We remind those who submitted prior year list totals that it is important to update their totals. Space may not permit publication of lists that are not reasonably current.

Questions ??? Call: Phil Davis (301) 261-0184.

Please return the form <u>BEFORE</u> January 20, 1995 to: Phil Davis
2549 Vale Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035

We hope that all who have participated will do so again, and that others will join in, especially those from localities which are currently less than well represented. If you have any comments, thoughts or anecdotes, please include them. Specifics on your yard habitat and size will also be of interest if your yard list total is especially high. If you have any other categories of Maryland bird lists that are appropriate (for example, all-time or 1994 state/county "Big Day" totals), send them in. We'd like to hear from you.

MOS 1994 MD/DC LOCALITY LIST REPORTING FORM

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	County:
State:	Zip:
Phones: (day): ( )	(evening): ( )

II. STATE/COUNTY LIFE AND 1994 LISTS

Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1994	Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1994
Maryland State	393/196			District of Columbia	309/154		
MD Yard List*	-			DC Yard List*	-		
Allegany County	280/140			Howard County	285/142		
Anne Arundel County	329/164			Kent County	293/146		
Baltimore City/County	332/166			Montgomery County	309/154		
Calvert County	298/149			Prince George's County	306/153		
Caroline County	277/138			Queen Anne's County	291/145		
Carroll County	275/137			St. Mary's County	297/148		
Cecil County	274/137			Somerset County	302/151		
Charles County	270/135			Talbot County	305/152		
Dorchester County	312/156			Washington County	257/128		
Frederick County	283/141			Wicomico County	272/136		
Garrett County	265/132			Worcester County	362/181		
Harford County	287/143			All-County List	214/---		

* **Yard List Information**:

County: _____

Location: Home: _____ Work: _____ Other? (specify): _____

Brief Description: (size, habitat, etc):

III. ANNUAL ALL-TIME HIGH LISTS (for previous years)

Locality List	Year	#	Locality List	Year	#

(Attach Additional Sheets If Needed)

MOS Education Committee Report

by Linda Bystrak

Based on the results of a 1993 survey of all MOS Chapters, the Education Committee submitted the following recommendations to the Executive Council at the September 24 meeting in Chevy Chase. The recommendations will be voted upon at the December MOS State Board meeting.

1. **Offer Leadership Training Workshops at MOS Sanctuaries.** Those members who are interested would be invited to spend a weekend in either the Spring or Fall at Irish Grove or Carey Run. Other MOS members or guest instructors would be invited to the sanctuary to serve as natural history instructors and advisors on field trip leadership techniques. The Education Committee would provide funding for meals, educational materials, and certificates of participation.

2. **Sponsor at least one Ornithology Workshop at each MOS Annual Conference.** For example, at the 1994 meeting, there was a Scales and Tales demonstration, and a presentation of computer software pertaining to ornithology.

3. **Work with government agencies and other natural history groups to inform and educate the public about ornithology and issues pertaining to the welfare of Maryland's birdlife.** Examples include DNR programs such as "Partners in Flight", "MD Outdoors", "Project Wild", etc.

4. **Develop and promote ornithology programs that would increase our membership's bird identification skills.** For example, MOS could assemble a skin collection of a group of birds that are similar in appearance, such as the sparrows, and ship them to various chapters for use at meetings and workshops. The Education Committee would be responsible for all the assembly, maintenance, and shipping costs associated with the program.

5. **Encourage each MOS Chapter to participate in a MOS Outreach Program.** The following list of activities is recommended for consideration by the chapters in planning a program to make contact with their local community:

   A. **Encourage and assist local nature centers and/or parks to include ornithology in their programs.**

      1. Provide them with a list of MOS volunteers to serve as guides for bird walks, curriculum advisors, and guest speakers about ornithology topics.

      2. Assist these facilities with establishing visual displays and collections of birds, eggs, and nests for teaching purposes (collecting permits required).

      3. Help them obtain ornithology field guides and binoculars for their visitors to use.

      4. Assist the facility in establishing and maintaining a feeder station behind an observation blind or one-way window, with an auditory system so viewers can also hear the birds.

      5. Provide assistance with obtaining, mounting, and maintaining duck/bird houses on their property.

      6. Encourage and assist them in developing and sponsoring ornithology workshops.

   B. **Participate in "Adopt A Group". This program involves the adoption or sponsoring of a group in each county, every year, by the MOS Chapter in that county.** The group could be of any age and examples would include: a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, a school ecology club, a local 4H group, an Envirothon Team, an elementary school class, a senior citizen group, or a nursing home. Special assistance provided by the chapter would include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following examples:

      1. Assisting the group's leader in planning an ornithology curriculum or program.

      2. Sponsoring a field trip for the group.

      3. Sponsoring an ornithology guest speaker, program, or assembly.

      4. Assisting the group in establishing and maintaining a feeder station.

      5. Hosting a bird house assembly and maintenance workshop for the group.

      6. Starting a collection of binoculars and field guides to share with your groups.

      7. Providing assistance and/or funds to purchase or loan ornithology resource materials to the group.

   C. **Sponsor ornithology programs at a local library.** This may include guest speakers, programs such as Scales and Tales, ornithology workshops, exhibits, and/or purchase of ornithology related books or audio visual/multimedia materials.

   D. **Participate in a MOS Ornithology Educational Resources Clearinghouse.** Assist in inventorying the ornithology teaching resources in Maryland, for the use of Maryland educators and our membership.

   E. **Nominate a local science fair participant to receive a MOS Ornithology Achievement Award for a project pertaining to ornithology.** A set of minimum criteria must be met in order to receive an achievement award. The award would include: a copy of **Birds of North America**, an MOS patch, and a one-year membership in MOS, a Certificate of Achievement, and possibly a $50 savings bond.

   F. **The Education Committee would like to encourage each MOS Chapter to contribute to ornithology education by writing a weekly column in a local newspaper.** If one person does not want to write the column every week, then perhaps several members could take turns, or they could co-author the column. They might also include weekly sightings made by area residents.

Finally, the Education Committee would like to have more time to investigate the suggestion that MOS help sponsor or co-sponsor an annual "Ornithology Youth Camp" at an existing nature facility in Maryland. Such a camp would be financed by user fees paid by the parents of the participants. MOS might assist with operating expenses, providing volunteers, advertising, etc. The committee feels that a feasibility study is needed.

1995 Conference
Patch & Pin Contest
by John Malcolm

In recognition of the special nature of the 1995 MOS Conference there will be two design contests this year: one for the conference pin (as usual), and a special contest for a one-time 50th Anniversary Commemorative Patch. The rules for these contests are as follows:

The design for the conference pin shall include a bird appropriate to the conference site (Emmitsburg) and the phrases "MOS" and "1945-1995."

The design for the Commemorative Patch shall include a bird symbolic of the State of Maryland and the phrases "Maryland Ornithological Society" and "1945-1995."

Submissions shall be rendered in color.

Artists may not use others' work, or copyrighted material.

Submissions shall not be framed or matted.

The artist's name should not appear on the front of the entry.

Artists may submit up to three designs for any one contest.

Entrants must be members of MOS.

The deadline for entries is December 31, 1994.

Entries should be sent to: John Malcolm, 10205 Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20879-2902.

Guidelines for Both Contests:

Designs should be clearly depicted, simple, uncluttered, and complete. Bold, simple designs are best. (The pin will be less than two inches; small details and complicated backgrounds won't reduce well. The patch will be approximately four inches, and stitched, not silk-screened or printed. Artists have a little more freedom for design and color with the patch.)

The manufacturers have limited color palettes; artists should consider birds with "common" colors.

Avoid shading or small patches of color. The pins are cloisonné, and each color change is bordered by a brass line. Again, there will be more flexibility for the patch design.

Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol, in any medium, and at least five inches across (but not larger than 9x12 inches).

The shape of the design doesn't matter; the manufacturers can produce any shape we want.

Artists need not depict the entire bird.

The contest will be judged by an impartial jury of birders and artists. No entrant can be a judge.

Judges consider artistic merit, suitability of the species, and the anticipated attractiveness of the pin or patch.

The jury's decision is final.

The winner may be asked to make minor changes in the design before it is sent to the manufacturer.

The manufacturer may have to make minor changes to accommodate the manufacturing process.

All artwork will be returned to the artists, except for the winning designs.

Artists should put the name of the species depicted, as well as their name, address, telephone number, and chapter affiliation, on a separate sheet of paper. They should put only their name on the back of the entry (written small, in one corner). All identification will be covered before judging.

Call John Malcolm with any questions at (301) 977-5788.

MOS Calendar
November, 1994 - January, 1995

Tuesday, November 1

MEETING. Baltimore. "Identifying Little Brown Jobs" by David Holmes. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. For further information contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

Friday, November 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding Guide to the National Forests" by Daphne Gemmill. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold

MEETING. Harford. "Partners in Flight" by Mr. Peter Stangel of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call Jean Fry at 410-452-8539.

Saturday-Sunday, November 5-6

SANCTUARY WORK DAY. Irish Grove. Join MOS members from throughout the state to fix up the house and grounds at our sanctuary near Crisfield. Some birding will be mixed in with the maintenance work. Overnight accommodations available. For further information, contact your local sanctuary representative or the state sanctuary chairperson, Dotty Mumford of Annapolis, at 410- 849-8336.

Saturday, November 5

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Sandy Point State Park. Combined trip with Howard County Bird Club. Popular trip to a local state park. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Hal Wierenga at 410-757-6290.

FIELD TRIP, Harford (joint with Cecil). Bombay Hook. All-day trip for waterfowl, field birds, raptors, and late shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Ames parking lot, US 40 between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace, or at 6:30 a.m. outside the Elkton Dunkin Donuts, US 40 at the Big Elk Mall. Bring lunch; scopes advised but not necessary. Leaders are Bill & Joan McIntosh, 410-734-6517.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Indian Springs Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot next to the MVA, west side of MD Rt. 65, south of I-70. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Keedy, at 301-733-7708.

Sunday, November 6

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park for possible loons, Tundra Swans, grebes and hawks. Meet 8:00 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Tuesday, November 8

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn for possible Rusty Blackbirds, Swamp Sparrow, early migrant waterfowl. Meet 8:30 a.m. at parking lot off Broken Land Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott, at 410-461-3361.

Thursday, November 10

MEETING. Howard. "Dragonflies" by Richard Orr. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia. . For further information, contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

MEETING. Talbot. "Farewell to Midway" by Claudia Wilds. 7:30 p.m. at the Loyola Federal Bank in Easton.

Saturday, November 12

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Piney Run Park. Waterfowl and winter land birds. Scopes recommended. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the park entrance. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander, at 410-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Beginners Walk at Wilde Lake for Bufflehead , Canvasback, and woodland birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at boat dock. The leaders are Mike and Grazina McClure. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Brookside Nature Center. A trip designed for those new to birding or those new to Montgomery County, to introduce you to one of our local birding hotspots. Participation is limited to 15 - please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot on this half-day trip. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

Sunday, November 13

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Susquehanna State Park. Morning walk for grebes, waterfowl, woodpeckers, and winter passerines. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Rock Run Mill. For further information, contact the leader, Les Eastman at 410-734-6969.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park for waterfowl starting to migrate and woodland birds on the move. Meet 8:00 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Monday, November 14

MEETING. Kent. "History of Maryland's Wild Turkeys" by Peter Jayne. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library in Chestertown.

Thursday, November 17

MEETING. Caroline. "Demonstration and discussion of Wildlife Painting" by Kurt Plinke, local artist. 7:30 p.m. at Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Meeting Room, 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Birds of Venezuela" by Dr. Donald Messersmith of World Nature Association. 7:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information call 301-627-6074.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Geese, swans, eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches. Meet 9:00 a.m. at visitor center parking lot. Bring lunch and scope. For further information, contact the leader, Willem Maane, at 301-229-1628.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Birding in Florida" by Willem Maane. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac.

Friday-Sunday, November 18-20

FIELD TRIP. Jug Bay. Chincoteague Weekend. For further information and reservations, contact the leaders, Joan and Wally Stephens at 301-423-8230 by Nov 16. A few overnight accommodations available at "Trails End".

(continued at top of next page)

Saturday-Sunday, November 19-20

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Chincoteague NWR, Virginia. Birding for waterfowl and land birds. Wash Flats road open. Meet 7:00 a.m. at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. Make reservations by Nov 12. For further information and reservations, contact the leaders, Wafi Rains, at 301-261-7825 or Barbara Ricciardi, at 301-464-1962.

Saturday, November 19

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Blackwater NWR. Ducks, thousands of Canada and Snow Geese, possible Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches. Scopes useful. Meet 9:30 a.m. at refuge visitor center. For further information, contact the leader, Taylor McLean, at 410-377-7622.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Piney Run Park & Lake, Carroll Co. Meet 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and scope. For further information and reservation, contact the leader, Bill Kulp, at 301-593-4617.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Piney Run State Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot next to the MVA, west side of MD Rt. 65, south of I-70. For further information, contact the leader, Betty Wolfe, at 301-824-5391.

Sunday, November 20

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park for possible Horned Grebe, gulls, sparrows. Meet 8:00 a.m. at west end lot. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Meet 9:00 a.m. at visitor center parking lot. Bring lunch, scope. For further information, contact the leader, Gary Nelson, at 301-897-8916.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Higgins & Spencer Furniture Co. on Talbot Street in St. Michaels. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Tuesday, November 22

MEETING. Washington. "Rare Birds of the World" by Floyd Murdock. 7:30 p.m. Meeting place TBA. For further information, contact Betty Wolfe at 301-824-5391.

Wednesday, November 23

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Wilde Lake for migrant waterfowl and woodland birds. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at boat dock. For further information, contact the leader, Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Saturday, November 26

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Eagle Watch. Stationary field trip at base of Conowingo Dam for Bald and, possibly, Golden Eagles. Watch runs from 9:00 a.m. until noon. For further information, contact the leader, John Wortman, at 410-939-3146.

Sunday, November 27

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park for gulls, waterfowl and late migrant hawks. For further information, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

Monday, November 28

MEETING. Wicomico. "Turkey Talk - The re-establishment of wild turkeys to all counties of Maryland" by Doug Hotton, Wildlife Biologist, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Friday, December 2

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Habitat Preservation in the Neotropics" by George Jett. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold

Saturday, December 3

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Cape Henlopen. Good area for Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting, Ipswich Sparrow, and sea ducks. Bring lunch and warm, comfortable clothing. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the MD 155 commuter lot at I-95 outside Havre de Grace. For further information, contact the leaders, Dave Ziolkowski at 410-679-6765 or Russ Kozach.

Sunday, December 4

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Dyke Marsh and area, Virginia. Winter birding and lots of waterfowl. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leader, Marilyn Taylor at 410-923-0069.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lilypons,/Oland Rd. Snow Buntings, Longspurs, Horned Larks possible. For further information, contact the leader, Gail MacKiernan, at 301-989-1828.

Thursday, December 8

MEETING. Howard. "Identification of the Larger Gulls Seen Inland in the Winter" by Eirik Blom. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia. For further information, contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Bird Counts, Conservation, and Montgomery County" by Sam Droege, who designs and implements bird monitoring programs for National Biological Survey. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac.

Saturday, December 10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southern Maryland. All day trip to Point Lookout and other locations in search of waterfowl, such as Scoters, Oldsquaw, and Great Cormorants. Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Gannets possible. Scopes recommended. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride lot. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford at 410-922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Christmas Count Tune-Up. Informal walk, lecture and demonstration to acquaint birders with concept and history of Christmas counts. Participation is limited to 15 — please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot on this half-day trip. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Pre-Christmas Count. Coverage of our area to locate birds. Leaders will check their assigned areas. For further information, contact Betty Wolfe at 301-824-5391.

Sunday, December 11

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Waterfowl and winter residents. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Wafi Rains, at 301-261-7825.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven Sparrows, ducks, and other winter residents. Scopes recommended. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Timonium Park & Ride lot. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Simon at 410-628-1929.

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Monday, December 12

MEETING. Kent. "Backyard Wildlife" by Dana Limpert. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library in Chestertown.

Tuesday, December 13

MEETING. Baltimore. "Show 'n Tell" Mini-slide shows by members and friends of the Baltimore Bird Club. Also, for the first time this year: a fun new Birds T-shirt contest! 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

Thursday, December 15

MEETING. Jug Bay. Annual Christmas Potluck Supper. 6:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information call 301-627-6074.

Friday, January 6

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Sora Rail Research at Jug Bay on the Patuxent River" by Gregg Kearns. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold

Sunday, January 8

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper. 5:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. Lecture follows. "Island Birds" by Hank Kaestner. Register with Mary Byers at 410-686-7294 by Thursday, Jan 5.

Thursday, January 12

MEETING. Montgomery. "Three Centuries of Birds" by Janet Millenson. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac.

Friday, January 13

Meeting. Harford. "Birds of Alaska: Kenai, Denali, and the Pribiloffs" by Larry & Jean Fry. Starts at 7:30 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, intersection of MD 136 & MD 22. For additional information call Jean Fry at 410-452-8539.

Saturday, January 14

Feeder Tour. Harford. Morning tour of three homes in Harford County for feeder watching and socializing. Space limited. For further information and reservations, call Carole Vangrin at 410-838-5264 by Wednesday, January 11.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Waterfowl Search. Local hotspots for wintering gulls and waterfowl. Trip designed for beginners or birders new to area. Participation is limited to 15 — please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

Sunday, January 15

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Meyer's Station. Owls, Woodcocks, Breakfast. Meet 4:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Leo Weigant, at 301-464-0136.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Riding trip for Winter Birds. Leader's choice of area. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Park & Ride lot next to the MVA, west side of MD Rt. 65, south of I-70. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Keedy, at 301-733-7708.

Thursday, January 19

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Northeastern Exposure", Maine and the Canadian Maritime's by Wally and Joan Stephens. 7:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information call 301-627-6074.

Saturday, January 21

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam and Cecil County. Thousands of gulls, possibly some rarities, as well as waterfowl, raptors and eagles. Wear warm clothing and boots. Telescopes useful. Meet 7:30 a.m. at White Marsh Mall on the NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla, at 410-821-0575.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Gull Watch. Possible species include Lesser Black-backed, Iceland, & Common Black-headed Gulls. Meet at the Fisherman's Park observation platform at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Dave Webb at 410-569-0107.

Monday, January 23

MEETING. Wicomico. "Distribution and Population Trends of Maryland Colonial Waterbirds" by Dave Brinker, Maryland Forest, Park and Wildlife Service. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Saturday, January 28

Gull Day. All-day extravaganza for Gull fanatics censusing gulls at landfills and other hotspots throughout the region. If you feel competent and interested or would simply like to accompany an expert, contact Gene Scarpulla at 821-0575.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Winter Gull Trip. Destination will be determined by the leader. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Stasz at 410-257-9540.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Field trip to waterfowl banding. For further information, call Vernon Stotts at 410-827-8152.

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The copy deadline for the January/February issue of the Yellowthroat is November 18 for chapter activities and November 23 for all other submissions.

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